

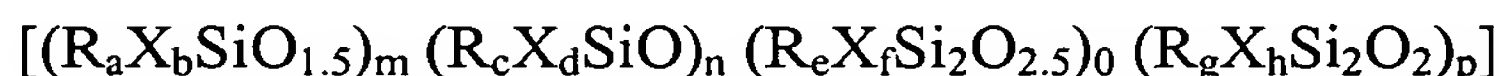
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A transparent masterbatch for improving the surface properties of thermoplastics, the transparent masterbatch comprising:

at least one polymer selected from the group consisting of a polyester, a copolyester, copolyamide, a cyclic olefin copolymer (COC), a polymethyl methacrylate, a polyphenylene ether, a polyurethane, a polysiloxane, a polysilane, a polytetrafluoroethylene, a polyoxymethylene, a polyvinyl chloride, a vinyl chloride copolymer, a polystyrene, an acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene copolymers (ABS polymers), ~~or~~ and a styrene-acrylonitrile copolymers (SAN polymers),

wherein said masterbatch ~~containing~~ comprises from 10% to 60% by weight of polyhedral oligomeric silicon-oxygen cluster units in accordance with the formula



~~where:~~wherein a, b, c = 0-1; d = 1-2; e, f, g = 0-3; h = 1-4; m+n+o+p ≥4; a+b = 1; c+d = 2; e+f = 3; and g+h = 4;

R = a hydrogen atom, an alkyl, a cycloalkyl, an alkenyl, a cycloalkenyl, an alkynyl, a cycloalkynyl group, or polymer unit, each substituted or unsubstituted, or further functionalized polyhedral oligomeric silicon-oxygen cluster units attached via a polymer unit or a bridging unit,

X = an oxy, a hydroxy, an alkoxy, a carboxy, a silyl, an alkylsilyl, an alkoxysilyl, a siloxy, an alkylsiloxy, an alkoxysiloxy, a silylalkyl, an alkoxysilylalkyl, an alkylsilylalkyl, a halogen, an epoxy, an ester, a fluoroalkyl, a isocyanate, a blocked isocyanate, an acrylate, a methacrylate, a nitrile, an amino, a phosphine or a polyether group or substituents of type R containing at least one such group of type X,

the substituents of type R being dentical or different, and the substituents of type X being identical or different and containing from 40% to 90% by weight of a thermoplastic carrier material.

Claim 2 (Original): ~~A~~ The masterbatch as claimed in claim 1, wherein the silicon-oxygen cluster unit comprises not more than 1 substituent of type X.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The masterbatch as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the thermoplastic carrier material comprises further additives.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The masterbatch as claimed in ~~at least one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic carrier material comprises at least one polymer of:
~~selected from a polyester, a copolyester, a polymethyl methacrylate, and or a copolyamide~~ copolyamides.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The masterbatch as claimed in ~~at least one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, ~~containing~~ comprising from 20 to 50% by weight of polyhedral oligomeric silicon-oxygen cluster units, and from 50 to 80% by weight of the thermoplastic carrier material.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The masterbatch as claimed in ~~at least one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein the polyhedral oligomeric silicon-oxygen cluster unit has a molecular size of not more than 100 nm.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A process for preparing a transparent thermoplastic, which comprises mixing one part by weight of the masterbatch ~~of at least one of claims 1 to 6~~ of

claim 1 into from 3 to 11 parts by weight of a further thermoplastic polymer mechanically without solvent at a temperature of at least 50°C.

Claim 8 (Original): A transparent thermoplastic prepared by a process as claimed in claim 7, wherein the concentration of the polyhedral oligomeric silicon-oxygen cluster units is not more than 5% by weight.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~The transparent thermoplastic as claimed in claim 8, ~~whose~~wherein the scratch resistance is higher than that of the plain thermoplastic.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~The transparent thermoplastic as claimed in claim 8 ~~or 9, whose~~wherein the glass transition temperature is at least 5% higher than that of the plain thermoplastic.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~The transparent thermoplastic as claimed in ~~at least one of claims 8 to 10~~claim 8, having a soft, velvety, “velour like” tactility.